

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01458 151937Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /019 W

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R 151903Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9744

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 1458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, HO

SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON UNITED BRANDS

REF: STATE 080701 AND 082175

1. FOR THE FULLER INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SUCH ACTION AS IT MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE, STEPHEN SANSWEET, ONE OF THE THREE AUTHORS OF THE ORIGINAL JOURNAL ARTICLE AND WHO IS CURRENTLY IN HONDURAS, WHEN QUESTIONED REGARDING PARAGRAPH WHICH QUOTED "TOP LEVEL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT" AS SAYING ORIGINAL TIP-OFF ON ALLEGED BRIBE CAME FROM EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA, INSISTED ON ITS VERACITY. HE SAID THIS PART OF ARTICLE, LIKE EVERY OTHER, WAS CHECKED OUT TWICE BEFORE PUBLICATION. HE SAID OFFICER, WHEN SUBSEQUENTLY CONFRONTED WITH OFFICIAL DENIALS OF DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY, ADMITTED HE WAS IN ERROR AND EXPLAINED HE "HAD JUST ASSUMED" THIS WAS THE CASE.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE THE OFFICIAL DENIALS, THE ORIGINAL STORY APPEARS TO BE WIDELY BELIEVED HERE, PARTICULARLY SINCE NO OTHER PART OF THE STORY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY QUESTIONED. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI01458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750131-0743
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750447/aaaabsbk.tel
Line Count: 48
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 080701, 75 AND 082175
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON UNITED BRANDS
TAGS: BBAK, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006